

I am one of those people that likes to be informed about the political and electoral issues affecting my life. But in the current form television has disappointed me in their coverage of the issues. I am also disgusted by the lies that are allowed to be aired as truth. And why are broadcasters making billions from airwaves that are free to them?

Local public affairs programming is gone, there is only one half hour program of such content in my area, and mostly they discuss issues of no real consequence. It is laughable to watch news broadcast and their silly stories on candidates' hairstyles and the like. I don't care what they look like, or who would be a better person to have a beer with. I want a candidate that is informed on the issues, is able to make tough decisions, can admit mistakes and apologize for them. I don't want to hear the crap that is passed for journalism.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

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